

### REMARKS

In the Office Action of December 27, 2002, Claims 12-21 are allowed, Claims 1, 4, 9 and 11 are rejected, and Claims 2, 3, 5-8 and 10 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim but are stated to be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

The Applicant has canceled the rejected claims without prejudice or disclaimer. In addition, the Applicant has rewritten Claims 2, 3, 5-8 and 10 to no longer depend upon a rejected base claim. Accordingly, the Applicant believes that the claims remaining in the application, Claims 2, 3, 5-8, 10 and 12-21 now stand in proper form for allowance and such favorable action is requested.

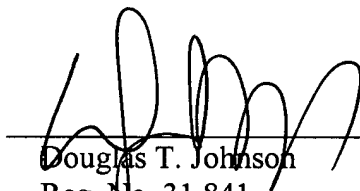
As amended, the application now contains two additional independent claims and a fee in the amount of \$84.00 to cover two additional independent claims for a small entity according to Section 1.16(b) is enclosed with this response.

Respectfully submitted,

MILLER & MARTIN LLP

Date: 1/9/03

By: \_\_\_\_\_

  
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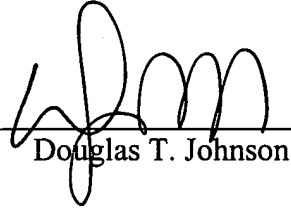


CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that the preceding Response is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to:

The Honorable Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

on this 10 day of January, 2003.

  
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Douglas T. Johnson

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